

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

5. (currently amended) An absorbent article having a front portion, a back portion, a crotch portion, and two side portions, the article comprising:

a main chassis;

an absorbent portion; and

first and second substantially elastic portions which replace a portion of the main chassis, each of said first and second substantially elastic portions having a first region that overlaps a portion of the main chassis for attachment thereto and a second region that does not overlap the main chassis, wherein the first substantially elastic portion has a first central elastic portion corresponding to the front portion of the article and two first side inelastic portions corresponding to the side portions of the article, ~~the two first side elastic portions having reduced elastic force as compared to that of the first elastic portion, and the second substantially elastic portion has a second central elastic portion corresponding to the back portion of the article and two second side inelastic portions corresponding to the side portions of the article, the two second side elastic portions having reduced elastic force as compared to that of the second elastic portion, said first and second elastic portions having a lateral width less than a lateral width of the main chassis, and~~

wherein said first central elastic portion contacts said second central elastic portion and extends in a longitudinal direction towards the crotch portion of the article.

Claim 6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) The article of claim 5, wherein the first region has an area that is smaller than an area of the second region.

8. (original) The article of claim 7, wherein the area of the first region is less than ten percent of a total area of the elastic portion.

Claims 9-11 (canceled)

12. (currently amended) The article of claim 5, wherein the first central elastic portion has a depth measured from a waist edge of the article toward a crotch portion of the article, the first side inelastic portions have a depth measured from the waist edge of

the article toward the crotch portion of the article, and the depth of the first central elastic portion is greater than the depth of the first side inelastic portions.

13. (currently amended) The article of claim 12, wherein the second central elastic portion has a depth measured from the waist edge of the article toward the crotch portion of the article, the second side inelastic portions have a depth measured from the waist edge of the article toward the crotch portion of the article, and the depth of the second central elastic portion is greater than the depth of the second side inelastic portions.

Claim 14 (canceled)

15. (currently amended) The article of claim 5, wherein the second central elastic portion has a depth measured from a waist edge of the article toward a crotch portion of the article, the second side inelastic portions have a depth measured from the waist edge of the article toward the crotch portion of the article, and the depth of the second central elastic portion is greater than the depth of the second side inelastic portions.

Claims 16 and 17 (canceled)

18. (previously presented) The article of claim 5, wherein the first central elastic portion contacts the second central elastic portion at the crotch portion of the article.

19. (original) The article of claim 18, wherein the first and second elastic portions are triangular in shape.

20. (previously presented) The article of claim 5, wherein the first and second elastic portions are triangular in shape.

21. (previously presented) The article of claim 5, wherein the first and second elastic portions have different areas.

22. (previously presented) The article of claim 5, wherein the first and second elastic portions are one of oval and circular in shape.

23. (previously presented) The article of claim 5, wherein the first and second elastic portions are diamond shaped.

24. (previously presented) The article of claim 5, wherein the first and second elastic portions are rectangular.

25. (previously presented) The article of claim 5, wherein the article is a diaper.

26. (previously presented) The article of claim 5, wherein the article is a pant.

Claims 27-53 (canceled)

54. (previously presented) The absorbent article of claim 5, wherein the article further comprises a first carrier layer operatively associated with at least one of the first and second elastic portions.

55. (previously presented) The absorbent article of claim 5, wherein a longitudinal dimensions of at least one of the first and second elastic portions along the longitudinal direction is a first distance, a longitudinal dimension of each of the associated side portions for the first and second elastic portions along the longitudinal direction is a second distance, and the first distance is less than twice the second distance.

56. (previously presented) The absorbent article of claim 5, wherein a lateral dimension of at least one of the first and second elastic portions perpendicular to the longitudinal direction is a third distance, a lateral dimension of each of the two associated side portions of the first and second elastic portions perpendicular to the longitudinal direction is a fourth distance, and the third distance is greater than the fourth distance.

57. (previously presented) The absorbent article of claim 5, wherein a lateral dimension of at least one of the first and second elastic portions perpendicular to the longitudinal direction is a first distance, a lateral dimension of each of the associated side portions of the first and second elastic portions perpendicular to the longitudinal direction is a second distance, and the first distance is greater than twice the second distance.

58. (previously presented) The absorbent article of claim 54, further comprising a second carrier layer operatively associated with the elastic portion wherein the elastic portion is disposed between the first and second carrier layers.

Claims 59-73 (canceled)